

LACDMH Honored at Quality and Productivity Awards

By H. Chung So, Public Information Officer II



Los Angeles County's Quality and Productivity Commission recognized four LACDMH's programs for boosting the effectiveness, accessibility and efficiency of its services and taking two of the county's "Top Ten" Awards that commends these improvement efforts.

"This is the Academy Awards for the Los Angeles County," said 1st District Supervisor and Board Chair Hilda Solis during the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting on Oct. 25, 2016.

The two Top Ten awardees are:

"Delivering Mental Health Services Without Walls" (led by Ricardo Mendoza, M.D.): LACDMH's telepsychiatry program that enhances accessibility to psychiatric consult services in High Desert and Santa Clarita Valley communities, as well as improving service efficiency and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing travel times.

"Youth Opportunity Program" (led by Jon Trochez from Department of Public Works): A collaborative project with the county's Probation Department, Department of Public Works and Department of Community and Senior Services, this program aims to reduce juvenile incarceration rates, improve employment opportunities for high-risk youths and help transition them back into their communities with a broad range of services, including mental health support, case management, job skills training and paid internship.

Additionally, two special merit plaques – which recognize accomplishments of special projects – are given to the following LACDMH programs:

“Mental Health Training for First Responders” (led by Miriam Brown, L.C.S.W.): A program that educates first responders, particularly law enforcement officers, on how to recognize and engage people with mental health diagnoses or crises. Through proper assessment, de-escalation and intervention, first responders can help resolve these critical moments in a peaceful, non-combative manner, ensuring the well-being of all parties involved.

“Addressing a Parish Community’s Emotional Pain” (led by Youngsook Kim-Sasaki, R.N., M.S.N.): A partnership with the St. Joseph Catholic Church to address the mental health needs of its parishioners, including recruitment and training of health promoters to conduct outreach and education, developing a system of tracking and referral into LACDMH services and holding regular support groups and classes to discuss various mental health issues.

The honorees were presented with their award plaques during the Quality of Productivity Commission’s 30th Annual Luncheon – titled “Heritage of Excellence” – on Oct. 19, 2016.



“Congratulations to all those who work on these wonderful projects,” said Robin Kay, Ph.D., Acting Director of LACDMH. “I am so proud that these projects have been recognized by the Los Angeles County’s Productivity and Quality Awards program for their innovation and contribution to improving people’s lives.”

“I am certain we have other projects and programs that are candidates for such recognition, and I encourage project and program leads to consider submitting them for next year’s awards,” Kay added. “I want to take this opportunity to thank all LACDMH staff for the wonderful work you do daily.”

First established in 1987, the Productivity and Quality Awards Program have honored more than 2,000 county projects and programs for their improvement efforts. According

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to County Chief Executive Officer Sachi A. Hamai, this year's recognized programs are expected to provide over \$84 million in annual benefits and savings.

To learn more about the county's quality and productivity improvement efforts, visit the Quality and Productivity Commission's website at <http://qpc.lacounty.gov>

